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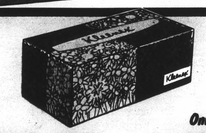

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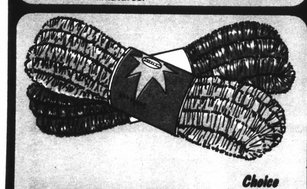

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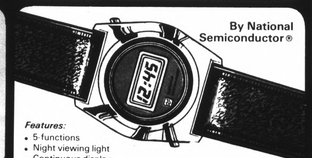

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 86 - NUMBER 48 | APPOMATTOX (VA.) - TIMES-VIRGINIAN - DECEMBER 1, 1977 | SINGLE COPY PRICE 15c

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Father Darkleaf

BY CALVIN ROBINSON

For no particular reason I have started keeping a log of room temperature and outdoor temperature. Good time as any 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. And friends you meet usually tell you what their thermometers read. Sunday morning there was one report of 18. And in the afternoon there was a snow flurry. Started out like it meant business, but was over before out of hand, the sleet I had expected was a phantom of the night. So . . . we had our first snow and no harm done. Already we have heard early morning newscasts announcing what schools will be closed, and that will be a regular feature ere long. Add it up and it makes one realize that Christmas is on the way and there are those who would not object to a White Christmas.

* * *

About time for Letters to Santa Claus to appear in the paper. I have the very first letter to Santa I ever wrote. It adds to the holiday spirit to see letters to Santa in the paper.

* * *

Christmas parades. Keysville has one of the best. This year Dec. 11, with eleven bands signed up, plus floats. Farmville has its Christmas parade Dec. 4, and among the attractions a personal appearance by Ken Clay, of Lynchburg, who is a New York Yankee pitcher.

* * *

Watching Macy's Thanksgiving parade on TV, I wondered what character has been in the most parades? I mean, parades in general. My answer would be Smokey the Bear.

* * *

Have checked the new 1978 calendar to see how many "Friday the Thirteens" are ahead of us. Only two in 1978, January and October. Could I be wrong in saying there was only one in 1977, May?

* * *

Bro. Dick Wingfield came by for a visit. Had seen my note last week that I had a small collection of political campaign buttons. He brought several to add to the collection . . . Dalton and Dalton, Canada, Coleman. Thanks.

* * *

Dark-fired tobacco markets open Dec. 4 and we hope that the offerings moving to the warehouse floors will fetch top prices.

* * *

Hutning season is here and among those bringing home trophies of the chase, my neighbor, K. E. (Red) Coleman with a five-point buck. It is claimed that Bath County and Southampton County are top Virginia counties for deer hunting. Up Warm Springs way they harvested some 2,300 deer in a two-week season last year. Wow. Southampton had a few more, but a much longer season. Business places in Bath County say deer hunting is the biggest item in their economy, counting side items like food, gasoline, lodging, ammunition, permits, etc.

* * *

Weather dominates writing as well as conservation. One wit wrote that the wind blew so hard it blew the center stripe off the highway. Really did, too, in one place where they were experimenting with plastic strips glued down to the pavement.

* * *

I rarely attend auction sales, but read a recent auction saldbill and one of the items advertised was a Fainting Stool. Never had one; never saw one; never heard of one.

* * *

I am reading my multi-volume set of Green's History of The English People. In one chapter says of a prime minister . . . "though he saw very clearly, he could not see far, and he would not believe what he could not see."

* * *

Thanks for reading, and seeya next week.

Earl Pickett, Secretary of the Piedmont Pork Producers, on the right above, is shown presenting Mr. Frank Sweet with the Piedmont Pork Producers Distinguished Service Award for 1977.

Mr. Sweet Receives Award

Frank H. Sweet, Extension Agent in Appomattox County, was presented the Piedmont Pork Producers Distinguished Service Award for 1977 last week.

Sweet was nominated for and received this outstanding award based on his close work with youth and adult pork producers, pork promotion groups and swine marketing cooperatives. Since 1969, when he was graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, he has had swine as one of his major Extension responsibilities.

Although Sweet has a limited background in swine production, he has reached out and worked with producers and their organizations. His enthusiasm, leadership and hard work has won for him the admiration of those in this association and it is appreciated.

Piedmont Pork Producers present two other awards at this time, Piedmont Pork Producer Of The Year, one for a man under 40 years of age and one for a man over 40 years of age. This year, in the under 40 group, Mike Clark of Amelia County received this award and in the over 40 group, Wesley E. Dunkum of Buckingham County received an award.

Frank Sweet, associated with the swine industry for seven years, is a member of South Central Virginia Feeder Pig Association, Piedmont Pork Producers Association, National 4-H Extension Agents Association, and Pamplin Ruritan Club.

The Piedmont Junior Market Hog Show and Sale annually awards a trophy to the county with the largest number of hogs of the highest quality. Under Sweet's leadership, Appomattox County received this award in 1971, 1974, and 1975. In 1974 the Appomattox Pork Producers Association presented Frank with their Distinguished Service Award. This award was a token of appreciation for the leadership he had given this organization.

In 1976, he served as president, Piedmont Junior Market Show and Sale. Although he works in a small county that also has a low hog population, Sweet has provided outstanding leadership to the youth and adults interested in swine, not only in Appomattox but in a wide area of Southeast Virginia.

As an educational advisor, he has worked closely with the Appomattox Pork Producers Association, Piedmont Junior Market Hog Show and Sale, Southside Area Junior Livestock Show and Sale, Piedmont Market Hog Trade Show and Sale, Piedmont Pork Producers Association, and the South Central Virginia Feeder Pig Association. Bi-monthly he assists with the marketing of feeder pigs in Farmville. This sale has grown to be one of the major sales in Virginia and this year will market 25,000 head.

PUBLIC HEARING PLANNED BY TOWN FOR DECEMBER 12th

The Town of Appomattox will hold a public hearing on December 12, 1977 at the Appomattox Town Office at 7:30 p.m. to discuss new Ordinances concerning the Water and Sewage charges and changes in the Real Estate and Personal Property tax rate.

For more information, a Public Notice can be found on the classified page of this issue of the TIMES-VIRGINIAN.

Santa To Visit Downtown Saturday

Christmas is almost here and DOWNTOWN Appomattox is ready! On Saturday, December 3, beginning at 3:00 p.m. you will find elves and clowns roaming the streets, popping in and out of the downtown stores, giving out treats, of course!

Also at 3:00 p.m., various musical groups will be performing from the depot platform for your entertainment.

At 4:00 p.m. Santa, riding in a fire truck and accompanied by the Appomattox County High School Band, will make his appearance, and then at 5:00 p.m. the Christmas Lights of Appomattox will be turned on, signaling the official beginning of Christmas in Appomattox. Just like I said, Christmas is almost here and Downtown Appomattox is ready!

JAMES C. ROGERS, CAPTAIN OF THE APPOMATTOX COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD, is shown presenting check to Toby Inge, Treasurer, for funds donated during the annual Fund Drive. The squad had set a goal of $15,000.00 for the fund drive and by the end of October a total of $15,492.11 had been contributed by residents and businesses of our county. After fund drive expenses, the amount of the check to be deposited was $15,280.76, money that will be used to maintain and operate YOUR rescue squad for the next year.

Your Assistance Needed For Comprehensive Social Services Plan

Assistance is needed from all interested citizens, donors, and Title XX Approved Vendors in Planning District XI in planning for a comprehensive social services plan for our locality, according to Mrs. Virginia M. Babcock, Director of Social Services for Appomattox County.

Title XX, an Amendment to the Social Security Act, which went into effect October 1, 1975, brought about several changes in welfare/social service departments functions in the community. Some of these were: there will be a community social service plan which the welfare department will coordinate; localities will have more authority as to what services are offered in each locality; the eligible groups are extended to the working poor.

Interested citizens will have an opportunity to participate in this plan for the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Campbell, Bedford and the cities of Lynchburg and Bedford on December 9, 1977, at a meeting from 9:30 to 12:00 at the Lynchburg Regional Office, 2600 Memorial Avenue, Lynchburg. Snow date is December 12, 1977 at the same time.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, you may obtain information by calling the appropiate social service office, the regional coordinator, or the state's toll free number 1-800-552-7093.

Vendors and donors will be given instructions on how to submit proposals for the 1978-79 plan also.

The draft plan for each locality will be available for you to review at a second public comment meeting on January 26, 1978, same time, same place. Snow date is January 27, 1978.

All interested citizens are encouraged to participate in this planning process.

Legal Services Corporation Held Public Meeting Wednesday

Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc., announced that the Legal Services Corporation held a public meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 1977 at 7:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 6th and Monroe Streets in Lynchburg, to discuss the possibility of a Legal Assistance Program.

The Legal Services Corporation, a private, nonprofit corporation which funds legal assistance programs around the country, has received an application for funding a new legal assistance program to cover the southern half of Virginia, as far north as Lynchburg. This program will provide free legal services to low-income people. Approval of the proposal is anticipated shortly for beginning operation in 1978.

Lynchburg has been proposed as a location for a program office, from which services would be extended to the City of Lynchburg, Appomattox County and Campbell County.

The meeting included a movie describing the operation around the country, and a Virginia lawyer described the operation of similar programs in Virginia.

All local citizens, and particularly those familiar with the needs of the low-income community, were urged to attend and share their suggestions and concerns.

Holiday Schedule At Post Office Is Announced

Window service at the Appomattox Post Office will be expanded to provide service from 9 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday, December 10 and on Saturday, December 17, according to an announcement from Mrs. ora McCoy, Postmaster.

Window service at the Pamplin Post Office will be normal which includes Saturday service from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

Rural customers are again reminded to purchase their postage stamps in advance and affix them to all letters and cards.

Rural carriers are not required to affix stamps to letters and greeting cards mailed during the month of December. The additional volume of mail alone forces the carrier to work longer hours, and they do not have time to affix stamps to the cards and letters.

Pack and wrap all parcels securely. Include a slip of paper with the name and address of

Continued on Page 12

MARCH OF DIMES RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

The Central Virginia Chapter of the March of Dimes is conducting a telephone recruiting campaign to acquire volunteers for the Mothers March on Birth Defects in January, 1978. The March of Dimes' goal is the prevention of birth defects, which is the nation's #2 health problem. Anyone wishing to help with the Mothers March, please call 237-6208 or write P. O. Box 4296, Lynchburg. Volunteers are needed in Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, Charlotte Counties, and the city of Lynchburg. Won't you help us to give every child a healthy birthright? That number again is 237-6208 or P. O. Box 4296, Lynchburg."

Christmas For Foster Care Children

All children need the help of grown-ups, but foster children have a special need for citizen protectors to see that they are provided with the things all children require - love and protection, good health services, education, justice.

Contributions are being accepted by the Appomattox County Department of Social Services to provide Christmas gifts for children placed in Foster Care Homes. There are no state funds available for extras for these special children.

Please make checks payable to Appomattox County Foster Children's Fund and mail to P. O. Box 326, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

For Rescue Squad, Call 352-5425

In the event of an emergency and you need the services of the Appomattox County Rescue Squad, please call 352-5425 - not the Traveler's Inn Motel. Even though Ray Nobel is available during the day and takes most of the day calls, he serves at night for only one week during the month, as do all members.

Crew leaders are on call on a weekly basis and are ready to take calls when they are dispatched from 352-5425, Transco Station 170. When you call this number, Transco immediately calls the crew on duty and your call is responded to immediately by the crew on call for the week.

If private citizens, State Police, and the Sheriff's Department will remember this number, 352-5425, and follow the proper procedure when the rescue squad is needed, you will get the fine service that this organization renders to our citizens.

To Carry National Debt, $1,503,000 Locally

To what extent are residents of Appomattox County in hock because of Federal deficit spending and the consequent growth of the national debt?

What is their share of the burden? How much will they be forking up during the next fiscal year, through their income taxes and other levies, toward paying off the interest charges on that debt?

The answer is - approximately $1,503,000. That is merely for the carrying cost of the debt. It will not reduce by one iota the capital amount itself, which is now approaching the awesome sum of $700 billion.

The matter of the debt comes to the fore at this time because Congress has just boosted the limit on it by $75 billion, bringing the new ceiling to $775 billion.

The findings are based upon data from the Treasury Department and other sources. They show that the cost of carrying the debt is over $40 billion a year at the present time.

Related to the average family in Appomattox County and to the taxes it pays, it means that some $400 of the amount collected from them by the Government in the year will go for interest on the debt.

The debt ceiling has been raised frequently over the years, chiefly to cover deficit spending. The current increase, at the request of the Administration, was approved by Congress with a minimum of debate.

Actually, it is pointed out, debate would have served no realistic purpose. Spending is determined. The debt limit had to be extended to keep the government functioning.

The nation's outstanding debt has grown rapidly since 1960. At that time it amounted to $291 billion. By 1970 it had reached $383 billion and, by 1975, $544 billion. It is now around $700 billion.

The annual interest costs have risen sharply, also, going from $9.2 billion in 1960 to the present $40 billion or so.

The net effect of these increases, on Appomattox County residents, is that their taxes attributable to the carrying costs are nearly twice as much as they were five years ago, when the interest was $20.1 billion.

Lions Club Will Host Football Banquet

Jim Tait

The Appomattox Lions Club will entertain the Appomattox County High School varsity football team and their coaches at a banquet to be held tonight, December 1, 1977, at 6:45 p.m. at the John Mosby Inn Restaurant.

Jim Tait, head football coach at the Unversity of Richmond, will be the guest speaker for the evening.

A native of New Rochelle, N.Y., he was graduated from Flushing High School in New York where he was a standout in both football and basketball. He played college football at Mississippi State University from 1954 to 1957. He graduated with a B.S. degree.

Tait held coaching positions at Mississippi State Univeristy and Meridian High School in Mississippi before he became associated with the University of Richmond in 1966. His first year at Richmond, he served as the offensive coordinator and the defensive backfield coach. From 1967 until the present Tait has remained as the offensive coordinator in charge of the offensive backfield.

Since coming to Richmond, Tait has been instrumental in the Southern Conference championship teams of 1968, 1970, and 1971. The Spiders participated in the Tangerine Bowl in 1968 and in 1971. He coached in the North-South Senior Bowl in Miami in 1970.

Under his guidance, Richmond was ranked #17 in forward passing offense nationally in 1966 and 8th nationally in 1969. He has coached such outstanding players as Walker Gillette, Mike Bragg, Buster O'Brien, Charley Richards and Barty Smith. Both Smith and Gillette were first round choices in the NFL draft.

Tait is married to the former Betty Jean Craig of Mobile, Alabama and they are the parents of six children.

Every member of the Lions Club will want to be present TONIGHT, Thursday, for this annual event.

Football Contest Winners Announced

Winners in the weekly Football Contest sponsored by area businesses have been announced by the Times-Virginian for the week of November 17, 1977.

With a total of a possible 23 games to predict in the contest, Robert G. Harris of Appomattox correctly predicted 20 of the 23 games and is the winner of first place in the contest.

Steve Marshall, also of Appomattox, correctly predicted 19 of the possible 23 games and is winenr of the second place prize.

Harris will receive a check in the amount of $10.00 as winner of first place and Marshall will receive a check in the amount of $5.00 as winner of second place, compliments of the Times-Virginian.

This was the final contest for this season as all Seminole District games have ended and colleges have ended their regular seasons, too. The Football Contest has created a great deal of interest and we look forward to having the contest on a weekly basis again next year.

County PTA Council Tours Schools

In the picture above, left to right, are Mrs. Brenda Drinkard, Appomattox Primary School PTA President; Mr. Roland Murphy, Council Council PTA President; Mrs. Elizabeth Alderson, County Council PTA Secretary; Mrs. Mary Edith Morris, Pamplin Elementary School PTA President; Mrs. Nell Drinkard, County Council PTA Treasurer; Mr. Ron Steinkamp, Appomattox Elementary School PTA President; and Mrs. Sally Walker, Appomattox Middle School PTA President.

These persons are members of the Appomattox County Parent - Teacher Association Council and were recently given a guided tour of each school in Appomattox County.

The purpose of the tour was to inform these parents, who have leadership roles in the PTA organization of the schools, of the educational program from kindergarten through the 12th grade. Having an understanding of the school program enables parents to be of greater assistance to their children.

The objectives of the Parent-Teacher Association are to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, church and community; to raise the standards of home life; to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth; to bring into closer relation the home and school; and to develop between educators and the general public united effort so as to secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

The united efforts of parents and school personnel are required if the PTA moves successfully toward achieving its objectives. Achieving these objectives means the development of students who live by the highest standards of conduct and behavior, who place learning as a high priority in their lives, and who have respect for themselves and their fellow citizens.

Parents are urged to become active members of the PTA and to give your assistance and support to the educational program of the schools.